

ORIGINAL

Decision 82-05-037 May 4, 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of HEMET SOLAR, INC.)

for special sizing for solar systems financed under OII-42 and) Application 82-01-24

for exemption from certain check-) (Filed January 8, 1982)

list requirements of Decision

Nos. 92251, 92501 and 92769

According to the Commission's decision on September 16, 1980, we issued Decision (D.) 92251 establishing demonstration solar financing programs for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and Southern California Gas Company. We subsequently modified this decision by D. 92501, December 5, 1980, and D. 92769, March 3, 1981. In these decisions we specified a checklist of requirements for domestic solar water heaters. Effective March 1, 1981, solar water heaters had to meet all sizing and checklist requirements to be eligible for the solar financing program. By Application 82-01-24, filed on January 8, 1982, Hemet Solar, Inc. (Hemet), requests that its exemption from certain sizing requirements of D. 92251, Appendix B, as authorized in Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated May 29, 1981, be modified for installations in a retirement community in Riverside County known as "Sun City".

AMENDED

On February 14, 1978, the Supervisors of the County of Riverside passed Ordinance No. 348.1626 amending Ordinance No. 348 relating to zoning. In essence this county ordinance established certain criteria that limit the use of single-family residences. One resident must be 50 years old and no occupant may be less than 18 years of age.

According to the MOU, the Hemet solar hot water heater is sized based upon the number of bedrooms rather than the occupancy factor of the home. Applicant states that "Although Sun City homes are built with two, three and four bedrooms, virtually all homes are occupied with retired couples." Hemet states that it will install three Solar Plus Model 185 Solar Units on each Sun City home. This configuration will in effect comply with the two bedroom requirement of the Commission's MOU dated May 14, 1981 with Hemet. Furthermore, according to Hemet, the specific sizing methods that will be used for Sun City will supply more than 60% of the hot water load. By its letter of April 22, 1982 to Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director, Public Utilities Commission, Hemet requested to amend its application to include the following phrases:

"Hemet Solar, Inc. will install an additional solar collector at no charge to the customer if it is proven that three Solar Plus Model 185 Solar Units will not yield the necessary 60% of the energy required for domestic water heating."

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Hemet anticipates selling approximately 900 of these units under the current loan/rebate programs. It has already sold 1300 units to energy conscious customers.

In Decision 92991, dated May 5, 1981, the Commission had authorized American Home Solar Energy System, Inc. (American) to size its solar system based upon the needs of a retired couple equal to a two bedroom home, for residence at Leisure World retirement community in Laguna Hills.

American also agreed to install an additional collector at no charge if a single 32-square foot collector would not yield the necessary 60% energy savings required for these Leisure World installations.

Conclusion of Findings

Findings of Fact

Hemet is seeking an exemption based upon the Commission's MOU dated May 14, 1981, to install three Solar Plus Model 185 units in each home, regardless of the number of bedrooms, in the retirement community of Sun City, Riverside County.

2. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors has passed an ordinance restricting occupancy in planned residential developments for senior citizens.

3. Hemet has been authorized by the Commission in a MOU dated May 29, 1981, to install its Solar Plus Model 185 units, with certain sizing criteria.

participate in the Oil & Gas program upon receipt of a letter from

4. The Solar Plus Model 185 in a three-unit configuration has been acceptable for providing more than 60% of the hot water load for a two-bedroom dwelling with normal occupancy.

5. Hemet Solar, Inc. will install two additional collectors of the Solar Plus Model 185 or similar type at no charge to the customer, if the Energy Conservation Branch finds that three (3) Solar Plus Model 185 solar units will not yield the necessary 60% of the energy required for domestic water heating.

6. Immediate action by the Commission is necessary to achieve energy savings and also to assist Hemet in installing these hot water heater systems.

Conclusions of Law

1. By a Riverside County ordinance one resident in homes within a planned retirement community must be 50 years old and no occupant may be less than 18 years of age.

2. The Solar Plus Model 185 with a three-unit configuration will be sufficient to provide 60% of the hot water load for dwellings in the Sun City.

3. The exemptions requested by Hemet are reasonable and should be granted immediately.

4. The Energy Conservation Branch should be directed to grant a similar exemption for solar systems at Sun City only to any solar manufacturer or contractor otherwise eligible to participate in the OII 42 program, upon receipt of a letter from

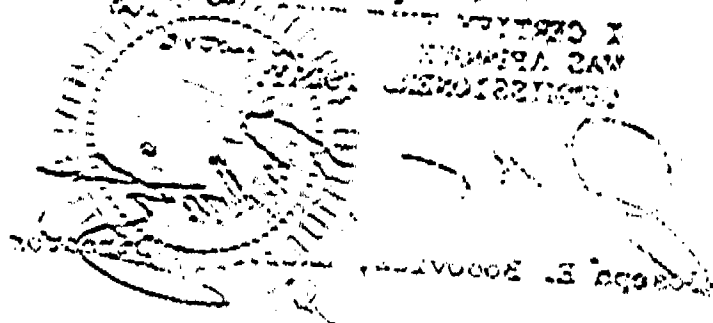
that manufacturer or contractor stating that it will install an additional solar collector(s) of 20 sq.ft. minimum at no charge to the customer, if the Energy Conservation Branch finds that a solar system sized for a two bedroom house fails to provide 60% of the energy required for the domestic hot water need at an installation in Sun City.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Hemet Solar, Inc. (Hemet) is granted the requested exemptions to install three Solar Plus Model 185 Solar Water Heaters on any three or four bedrooms homes in Sun City, Riverside County effective upon receipt from Hemet of a letter stating the firm's agreement to the terms of Findings of Fact No. 5 of this decision.

2. Except as granted Hemet and its contractors shall adhere to all other currently effective installation requirements as set forth in D.92251, 92501, and 92769 and to the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 14, 1981.



3. Notwithstanding the Commission Resolution EC-17 dated May 4, 1982, the Energy Conservation Branch is authorized and directed to grant a similar exemption of other manufacturers and contractors for solar systems at Sun City as specified in Conclusion of Law No. 4 of this decision.

This order is effective today.

Dated May 4, 1982, at San Francisco, California.

IT IS ORDERED THAT

JOHN E. BRYSON
President
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE
LEONARD M. CRIMES, JR.
VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA J. GREW
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS ORDER WAS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS TODAY.

Joseph E. Boonvitz, Director

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O P I N I O N

On September 16, 1980 we issued Decision (D.)92251 establishing demonstration solar financing programs for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and Southern California Gas Company. We subsequently modified this decision by D.92501, December 5, 1980, and D.92769, March 3, 1981. In these decisions we specified a checklist of requirements for domestic solar water heaters. Effective March 1, 1981 solar water heaters had to meet all sizing and checklist requirements to be eligible for the solar financing program.

By Application 82-01-24, filed on January 8, 1982, Hemet Solar, Inc. (Hemet), requests that its exemption from certain sizing requirements of D.92251, Appendix B, as authorized in Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated May 29, 1981, be modified for installations in a retirement community in Riverside County known as "Sun City".

On February 14, 1978, the Supervisors of the County of Riverside passed Ordinance No. 348.1626 amending Ordinance No. 348 relating to zoning. In essence this county ordinance established certain criteria that limit the use of single-family residences. These restrictions apply to occupancy in planned residential developments that are limited to senior citizens.

According to the MOU the Hemet solar hot water heater is sized based upon the number of bedrooms rather than the occupancy factor of the home. Applicant is now seeking to size individual solar hot water heater homes in accordance with the County Ordinance limiting occupancy to senior citizens only, rather than in accordance with the number of bedrooms, only for installations in Sun City.

Applicant states that "Although Sun City homes are built with two, three and four bedrooms, virtually all homes are occupied with retired couples". Hemet states that it will install three Solar Plus Model 185 Solar Units on each Sun City home. This configuration will in effect comply with the two bedroom requirement of the Commission's MOU dated May 14, 1981 with Hemet. Furthermore, according to Hemet, the specific sizing methods that will be used for Sun City will supply more than 60% of the hot water load. By its letter of April 22, 1982 to Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director, Public Utilities Commission, Hemet requested to

amend its application to include the following phrase:

"Hemet Solar, Inc. will install an additional collector at no charge to the customer if it is proven that three Solar Plus Model 185 Solar Units will not yield the necessary 60% of the energy required for domestic water heating."

Hemet anticipates selling approximately 900 of these units under the current loan/rebate programs. It has already sold 1300 units to energy conscious customers.

Findings of Fact

1. Hemet is seeking an exemption based upon the Commission's MOU dated May 14, 1981, to install three Solar Plus Model 185 units in each home, regardless of the number of bedrooms, in the retirement community of Sun City, Riverside County.

2. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors has passed an ordinance restricting occupancy in planned residential developments for senior citizens.

3. Hemet has been authorized by the Commission in a MOU dated May 29, 1981, to install its Solar Plus Model 185 units, with certain sizing criteria.

4. The Solar Plus Model 185 in a three-unit configuration has been acceptable for providing more than 60% of the hot water load for a two-bedroom dwelling with normal occupancy.

5. Hemet Solar, Inc. will install an additional collector at no charge to the customer, if it is proven that three (3) Solar Plus Model 185 solar units will not yield the necessary 60% of the energy required for domestic water heating.

6. Immediate action by the Commission is necessary to achieve energy savings and also to assist Hemet in installing these hot water heater systems.

Conclusions of Law

1. By a Riverside County ordinance homes within a planned retirement community can be occupied by senior citizens only.

2. This ordinance, in essence, limits bedroom occupancy to a maximum of two bedrooms on a permanent basis regardless of the number of bedrooms in the dwelling.

3. The Solar Plus Model 185 with a three-unit configuration will be sufficient to provide 60% of the hot water load for dwellings in the Sun City.

4. The exemptions requested by Hemet are reasonable and should be granted immediately.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Hemet Solar, Inc. (Hemet) is granted the requested exemptions to install three Solar Plus Model 185 Solar Water Heaters on any three or four bedrooms homes in Sun City, Riverside County.

2. Except as granted Hemet and its contractors shall adhere to all other currently effective installation requirements as set forth in D.92251, 92501, and 92769 and to the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 14, 1981.

This order is effective today.

Dated MAY 4 1982, at San Francisco, California.

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v/cb/arm/wpsc

revised

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